

CLAIMS:

We claim ...

1. A computer virus avoidance system that sends an e-mail with an attachment to e-mail users and creates a list of e-mail users that open the attachment.
2. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 1, wherein the attachment displays a message to the user when the attachment is opened.
3. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 1, wherein an e-mail message is sent to users that open the attachment.
4. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 1, wherein the attachment transmits replications of itself to other e-mail users.
5. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 4, wherein the number of replication and transmission cycles is limited.
6. A computer virus avoidance system and an e-mail system, comprising: a means for sending an e-mail with an attachment to an e-mail address, and a means to send an e-mail to a specific e-mail address when the attachment is opened.
7. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 6, wherein the attachment displays a message to the user when the attachment is opened.
8. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 6, wherein an e-mail message is sent to users that open the attachment.
9. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 6, wherein the specific e-mail address gathers and creates a list of e-mail users that opened the attachment.
10. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 6, wherein the attachment contains a means to send a replica of itself to another e-mail address.
11. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 10, wherein the number of times that the attachment replication process is limited.

12. A computer virus avoidance system in a computer network and a system for sending an e-mail wherein an e-mail is sent to an e-mail address, and the e-mail has an attachment that sends an e-mail to a specific address when the attachment is opened.
13. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 12, wherein the attachment displays a warning message to the user when the attachment is opened.
14. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 12, wherein an e-mail message is sent to users that open the attachment.
15. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 12, wherein the specific e-mail address is that of an e-mail "in-box" that creates a list of e-mail addresses that have sent it messages.
16. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 12, wherein the attachment sends a replica of itself to another e-mail addresses.
17. The computer virus avoidance system of claim 16, wherein the number of replication cycles is limited.

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